

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 119464

O R 050939Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEIDATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5224

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

RUEKJCS /SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3272

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT ITEMS 2 AND 3 BELOW DESCRIBE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. THE MILITARY SITUATION AT KAMPOT WAS FURTHER STABILIZED YESTERDAY WITH THE ARRIVAL BY SEA AND AIR OF ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION FORCES TO REINFORCE LOCAL UNITS. KHMER AIR FORCE TRANSPORT PLANES, HELICOPTERS AND NAVY VESSELS HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THW RAPID MOVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT UNITS TO KAMPOT DURING THE PAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.

3. REVERSING THE DIRECTION OF FIGHTING WHICH OVER THE WEEKEND HAD SEEN LOCAL UNITS FALL BACK TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS CLOSER TO KAMPOT THE GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS YESTERDAY TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN TWO SEPARATE ENGAGEMENTS AND BEGAN TO PUSH BACK THE DEFENSE LINE NORTHE AND NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. COMMUNIST GUNNERS WOUNDED SIX CIVILIANS, HOWEVER, IN MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST THE

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KAMPOT AIRFIELD.

4. ON HIGHWAY 4, GOVERNMENT FORCES FROM KOMPONG SPEU AND PHNOM PENH BEGAN COVERGING ON COMMUNIST UNITS WHICH YESTERDAY INTERDICTED A FOUR-KILOMETER SECTION OF THE HIGHWAY APPROXIMATELY HALF-WAY BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES. NO REPORTS HAVE YET BEEN RECEIVED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATION. AT THE MONTH AND HALF-OLD CUT ON HIGHWAY 4 TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU, A COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK YESTERDAY RESULTED IN SIX GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS WOUNDED.

5. AT TAKEO YESTERDAY GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO REINFORCE THE CITY'S EXPANDED DEFENSE PERIMETER WITH A SWEEP OPERATION SIX-SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY. SMALL ENGAGEMENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED SOUTH OF THE CITY.

6. FIGHTING IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA FOLLOWED THE GENERALLY REDUCED LEVELS OF RECENT DAYS. GOVERNMENT FORCES REPULSED A COMMUNIST ATTACK NEAR ROBAS ANKANH IN THE BASSAC-MEKONG PENINSULA KILLING FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS. THE AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH REMAINED QUIET. SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY, GOVERNMENT FORCES CONDUCTED A SWEEP OPERATION SOUTH OF THE PREK THNAOT RIVER. NO CONTACT WAS REPORTED.

7. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC LIGHT COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AT SIEM REAP, KOMPONG CHAM, AND AT PEAM REANG SIXTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG. IN AN ENGAGEMENT AT PHUM BOENG EIGHTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF BATTAMBANG, TEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS MODERATE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INFILTRATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMMUNIQUE, COMBAT CASUALTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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